

To the Members of the United Veterans Legislative Coalition:

In the 112th Congress I will have the honor of serving on the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee which appropriated \$182.5 billion in FY2010 for Department of Defense Military Construction, Department of Veterans Affairs, and the American Battle Monuments Commission.

The Subcommittee through its appropriations bill acts to fund the planning, design, construction, alteration and improvement of facilities used by active and military components worldwide. It capitalizes military family housing and the U.S. share of the NATO Security Investment Program, and finances the implementation of installation closures and realignments. The appropriations bill underwrites veteran benefit and health care programs administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs, provides for the creation and maintenance of U.S. cemeteries and battlefield monuments within the United States and abroad. The subcommittee's appropriations bill supports the U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals, Armed Forces Retirement Homes and Arlington National Cemetery. The bill also funds construction supporting operations overseas - known as Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO).

From my position on this subcommittee, I will work to support the needs of those serving in our armed forces and their families and ensure that all our nation's veterans receive the benefits and services they deserve.

During the past two years, Congress took historic steps forward in making investments in veterans' health care and services - increasing those services our veterans earned and deserve. I will continue to fight to protect and defend the benefits our veterans depend upon from proposed budget cuts in the current majority in Congress. Congress should not try to balance the budget on the backs of our veterans and their families. Nor should timely funding for veterans be threatened because of partisan bickering over the budget deficit.

Nearly 400,000 veterans call Minnesota home, and I am grateful and humbled by their service and the sacrifices they have made on behalf of our country. As the daughter of a World War II veteran, it is a special honor to work on behalf of those served our country by investing in educational opportunities, health care services, and access to good jobs for our nation's veterans.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns regarding veteran's

related issues in the 112th Congress.

Sincerely,

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress